

PHILADELPHIA OLDTIMERS SOCCER ASSOCIATION 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROBERT A. BORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 26, 1997*

Mr. BORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Philadelphia Oldtimers Soccer Association. I would like to speak in honor of this group because of their commitment to the community. They have focused their love of a sport into an organization that makes a positive contribution to the youth of Philadelphia.

Founded in 1947, the Philadelphia Oldtimers Soccer Association [POSA] was a synthesis of managers, benefactors, and players. The founders original intent to give something back to young people participating in the sport has been upheld through POSA programs for 50 years. POSA makes this contribution through many different means.

The National Soccer Hall of Fame included the Philadelphia Oldtimers Hall of Fame original inductees as founding members in 1953. There are now 16 members of POSA in the National Hall of Fame. At an annual banquet, POSA honors a male and female coach of the year, a referee of the year, a manager of the year, male and female player of the year, and a club of the year.

POSA annually selects an all-scholastic team. The Philadelphia Catholic, Philadelphia Public, Inter-Academic, and Suburban One Leagues individually submit candidates for the POSA team. The final 22 players and 4 alternates are selected through a tryout process from a pool of about 90 players. This final team goes on to play teams from Lehigh Valley, western suburban Philadelphia, Staten Island, Cape May, and other prominent local clubs.

Helping the players receive college scholarship funding is one of the oldtimers fundamental goals, and the all-scholastic team provides a medium through which college coaches can assess and recruit POSA players. Many members of the team have received scholarships, with some continuing on to play professional soccer.

POSA has recently added a new focus to its efforts—the development of a girls program. They are committed to offering the same opportunity to girls that the boys all-scholastic team has provided to its players in the past. POSA's move to provide female soccer players with the same springboard to college soccer is a step in a positive direction for female athletes in the Philadelphia area.

When the POSA teams put their best foot forward, they are also representing the best of Philadelphia. Not only are they building a reputation of great soccer and teamwork for themselves, they are contributing to the reputation and success of Philadelphia's student athletes. On their 50th anniversary I would like to congratulate the Philadelphia Oldtimers Soccer Association and its players on their achievements, and wish them future success in the sport of soccer and beyond.

ADDRESS BY FRANCIS SEJERSTED

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 26, 1997*

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, last November, Bishop Carlos Ximenes Belo and Dr. Jose Ramos-Horta were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for their efforts in bringing peace to East Timor. I had the opportunity to attend the ceremony in Oslo with my colleague, the gentleman from Ohio, TONY HALL, who nominated Bishop Belo for the prize in 1994 and 1995. I then had the opportunity to visit Bishop Belo in East Timor in January.

As part of our bipartisan effort to recognize the Nobel Prize winners today, I am submitting for the RECORD the speech made by the chairman of the Nobel Committee when he presented the award.

ADDRESS BY FRANCIS SEJERSTED, CHAIRMAN OF THE NORWEGIAN NOBEL COMMITTEE, ON THE OCCASION OF THE AWARD OF THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE FOR 1996

Your Majesties, Presidents, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen: On behalf of the Norwegian Nobel Committee, may I extend to everyone a warm welcome to this year's Nobel Peace Prize ceremony. It is one hundred years to the day since Alfred Nobel died. A year earlier, he had drawn up his will, in which he determined that his considerable wealth should provide for annual awards of five prizes, three for science, one for literature, and one for peace, to those whose work, as he wrote, "shall have conferred the greatest benefit on mankind". It was also laid down in the will that the Peace Prize should be awarded in Norway by a committee appointed by the Norwegian Storting. Our thoughts today go also to Stockholm, where the other awards are being made, and where the centenary is being marked of the death of Alfred Nobel.

Nobel was, of course, an unusually successful businessman. But that was not where his heart lay. His happiest times were spent in the laboratory. Inventions, it has been said, became for him a way of life. He was also very widely read. He was in other words greatly interested, indeed a believer, in science and literature. What was remarkable was his moral approach to those activities, which he saw as opportunities for promoting a better world. This perspective emerges most clearly in his decision concerning a peace prize. It can be argued that the invention of dynamite, and concern at the more powerful weapons which it made possible, contributed to his increasing commitment to peace. But there were other impulses, too, impulses which appealed to his deeply rooted moral instincts, first and foremost his contact with the future Peace Prize Laureate Bertha von Suttner and with the contemporary peace movement.

Nobel left an important inheritance, consisting of a vision of a better world, and an award institution which was to contribute to the realization of that vision. We who have been entrusted with managing that inheritance do so in humility and with deep respect for the man Alfred Nobel, whose memory we honour today.

It is with great pleasure, and in the conviction that with this year's choice we have managed Nobel's inheritance in the best possible way, that we welcome our Peace Prize Laureates today. Carlos Filipe Ximenes Belo and José Ramos-Horta have been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for 1996 for their long-lasting efforts to achieve a just and peaceful

solution to the twenty-year-old conflict in East Timor. To reach this peaceful winterland Norway, you have come about as far from your home country as it is possible to travel on this earth. Yet the distance between us is much shorter in miles than in opportunities for peace, justice and reconciliation. We are grateful and proud that, in the middle of your important and self-sacrificing work, you have found time for the journey here, thereby giving us this opportunity to honour you.

The conflict in East Timor has been called "the forgotten conflict". It has not, however, been completely forgotten, having figured on the international agenda, with varying degrees of prominence, throughout those twenty years. But it has so to speak never caught on. There have been so many other interests and regards to attend to, and East Timor is so small. Rarely has the cynicism of world politics been more clearly demonstrated. The numerous considerations of "Realpolitik" have enabled an exceptionally brutal form of neocolonialism to take place. Of a population of between six and seven hundred thousand, nearly two hundred thousand have died as the direct or indirect result of the Indonesian occupation. And the violations are still taking place today. Many are the countries which have given higher priority to their "Realpolitical" cooperation with Indonesia than to regard for East Timor. This is the apparently hopeless situation in which our two Laureates have so untiringly striven for a just and peaceful arrangement for their people.

The autumn of 1975 was fateful for East Timor. First the old colonial masters, the Portuguese, withdrew. Then an internal struggle broke out between the Timorese Democratic Union on the one hand and the Fretilin liberation movement on the other. And the autumn ended with the Indonesian invasion. In the twenty-one years that have passed since, this conquest of a country and a people has never been internationally recognised. Ramos-Horta was a Fretilin leader, one of the moderates whose ideal was social democracy. During the so-called civil war, he was out of the country, and on his return in September he tried to reconcile the parties. Since the invasion he has lived abroad, unceasingly and with great personal sacrifice collecting and communicating information on the repression, torture and killing in his home country, and acting as East Timor's principal international spokesman. At the same time he has successfully kept up his efforts to unite the various East Timorese groups in a single national front, while constantly seeking opportunities for a peaceful solution to the conflict with Indonesia, based on respect for the integrity of the East Timorese people. "We used to joke that he was more an informal member of the Democratic Union than a Fretilin leader," says Union leader João Carrascalão. The remark illustrates the part played by Ramos-Horta as a mediator and conciliator. No serious negotiations aimed at resolving the conflict are conceivable today without the participation of Ramos-Horta or one of his aides, as Bishop Belo has also emphasized.

As a relatively unknown priest, Bishop Belo was appointed Apostolic Administrator for the Roman Catholic church in East Timor in 1983, since when he has served on his home ground. Again and again, in the midst of everyday terror and suffering, he has intervened, trying to reconcile and mediate and lessen confrontation, and in doing so he has saved many lives. Intervening in a violent conflict entails a risk of being crushed between the antagonists. "Pray for me, please," he said in one such situation, "because now I have to defend myself on both sides". But Bishop Belo has become